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D6.3 Midterm report on Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC)

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Executive summary

The present deliverable provides an interim report on dissemination, exploitation, and communication (DEC) activities for DIGITAfrica. The primary aim of DIGITAfrica is to establish the foundations for a comprehensive pan-African research infrastructure (RI) in the domain of Digital Sciences, while developing a strategic framework, based on active collaboration and stakeholder participation, to foster Euro-African research and innovation cooperation. Deliverable 6.3 outlines the DEC activities implemented during the first 18 months of the project (M1-M18), alongside the updated plan for the second phase. It reviews the progress achieved so far, highlights key outcomes and provides recommendations to guide DEC activities in the next reporting period.

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AU	African Union
DEC	Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
RI	Research Infrastructure
WP	Work Package

1 Introduction

1.1 Objective of the deliverable

DIGITAfrica officially kicked off in January 2025 with the mission to collaboratively design a framework and ecosystem for a comprehensive pan-African research infrastructure (RI) in digital sciences. Funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme (under grant agreement No. 101187966), the project runs for 36 months until the end of 2027. DIGITAfrica brings together five African Union partners, seven EU partners and one partner from an associated country, fostering strong cooperation between African and European institutions.

DIGITAfrica aims to develop a digital research infrastructure that empowers researchers, drives innovation, and fosters socio-economic development across Africa. With a focus on cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, and advanced computing, the project seeks to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusivity, with particular attention to young researchers and women in STEM.

As the project advances, monitoring and reporting on the Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication Plan is essential to ensure the success of DIGITAfrica, both during and beyond the project's lifetime. Effective communication strategies are key to maintaining the visibility of the project's objectives and results, engaging target audiences, and supporting a meaningful and sustainable impact across the African continent.

This deliverable (D6.3) provides an interim report on dissemination, exploitation, and communication activities within Work Package 6 (Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication), led by Mandat International (MI), in the context of Task 6.1 Communication and Dissemination Activities. It covers the activities carried out during the first 18 months of the project (M1-M18) and outlines the updated objectives, methodologies, and plans for the second implementation period.

Following the completion of the initial phase, focused on establishing DIGITAfrica identity, defining target audiences, and setting up the website and communication channels as reported in D6.1, the current phase has focused on strengthening DIGITAfrica visibility, actively engaging key stakeholders, and supporting the exploration of exploitation and sustainability pathways for the project results. The final version of this deliverable, reporting all DEC achievements, will be submitted in M36 (December 2027), as illustrated in Figure 1.

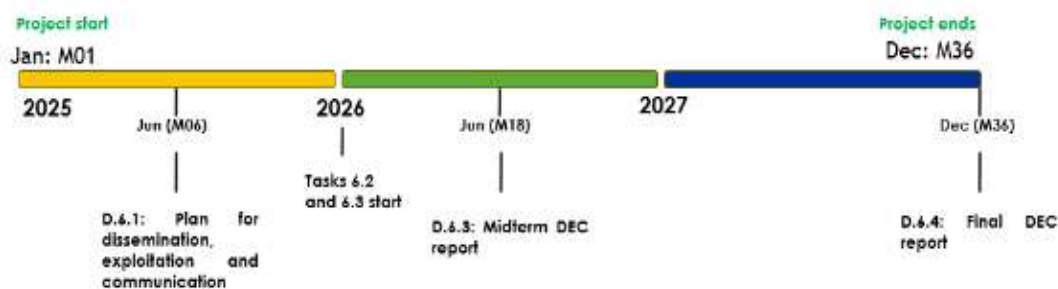


Figure 1 - DIGITAfrica Dissemination, exploitation and communication roadmap

1.2 Deliverable structure

The deliverable is structured into five sections, as follows:

1. **Introduction:** The introduction presents the context and purpose of the present deliverable.
2. **Communication Strategy:** This section describes the project's communication strategy, highlighting its objectives and target audiences. It provides an overview of the key performance indicators (KPIs) at M18 and details the communication activities carried out so far.
3. **Dissemination Strategy:** This chapter presents the dissemination plan, focusing on the participation of project partners in conferences, publications, and the production of dissemination materials, in line with the established KPIs.
4. **Exploitation Strategy:** This section presents the exploitation strategy of the DIGITAfrica project, which aims to ensure the long-term sustainability and uptake of project results beyond its duration.
5. **Conclusion:** This final chapter summarizes and closes the deliverable.

2 Communication strategy

2.1 Scope, objectives, target groups and stakeholder operationalisation

The DIGITAfrica communication strategy is defined in the [Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication Plan \(D6.1\)](#), which provides the detailed framework for communication objectives, target groups, and implementation modalities. In line with this plan, the present section focuses exclusively on the operationalisation of the defined approach during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, the target groups framework established in D6.1 has been further operationalised through the development and consolidation of a shared stakeholder database hosted on a common consortium repository and accessible to all partners. This tool has been collaboratively developed and is continuously maintained and updated by consortium members, ensuring that stakeholder information is systematically updated and made available across the partnership.

The stakeholder database includes structured information on relevant organisations and individuals, such as categorisation by stakeholder group, geographical scope, and potential role within the project. It also enables the inclusion of additional qualitative indicators, such as level of influence and relevance to specific project activities, thereby supporting a more refined and strategic approach to stakeholder engagement.

This operationalisation has significantly strengthened the coordination of communication activities across the consortium. In particular, it has improved the consistency of stakeholder mapping, enhanced internal visibility of engagement activities, and facilitated more targeted outreach actions aligned with the project's communication priorities.

Overall, this approach has contributed to increased traceability and coherence in communication activities, supporting a more structured and evidence-based implementation of the communication strategy.

Further details on stakeholder engagement activities are provided in the Stakeholder Engagement section of the Exploitation Strategy.

2.2 Key Performance Indicators

At the outset of the project, a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) was established to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of communication activities. Table 2 provides an overview of the DIGITAfrica KPIs and the results achieved by M18.

Measure and target groups	Indicators	Target	Current results (M18)
DIGITAfrica website (TG: All)	No. of unique visitors to the website	> 1000 visitors/year	www.digitafrica.eu During its first year of operation, the website garnered 3,354 visitors (March 2025-March 2026)
DIGITAfrica video presentation of the concept of a pan-African Digital RI (TG: All)	No. of video and n° of views	1 video and > 1000 views	Video production in progress
DIGITAfrica E-brochure (TG: All)	No. of brochures distributed	At least 200 downloads per year	Three official E-brochures produced, approximately 100 downloads
DIGITAfrica Posters (TG: All)	No. of posters produced	4 in total	Three official posters produced
High-level presentation materials for policy makers (TG: 2, 3, 6, 7)	No. of sets	At least 1 per year	1 Overview presentation for external use available in French and English. 1 High-level presentation produced in French and English.
Social networks (TG: All)	No. of followers: LinkedIn	> 500	Number of followers for LinkedIn: 453

Table 1 - Selected indicators for communication activities

2.3 Report on communication activities

The following section provides a comprehensive report on communication outcomes, providing a summary of the key activities implemented during the first period in accordance with the defined KPIs, and outlining the planned actions and next steps for the upcoming period.

2.3.1 DIGITAfrica Website

The DIGITAfrica website (<https://www.digitafrica.eu/>) serves as the primary digital channel for sharing information about the project. It provides stakeholders with a clear and accessible overview of the project, complemented by regular updates on ongoing activities, results, and key outcomes, as well as the possibility to contact the project partners.

During the first 18 months of the project, the website has been regularly updated with relevant content. Dedicated sections have been established in order to enhance communication and stakeholder engagement, including the DIGITAfrica Community page, the Blog section, and the Resources section for sharing project e-brochures, news, and event updates. This approach has ensured continuous engagement with the target audience while strengthening the visibility of the project's activities, results, and achievements.

The website is fully aligned with the expected KPIs, which target 1,000 visitors per year. During its first year of operation, from March 2025 to March 2026, the platform recorded 3,354 visitors, significantly exceeding the annual target.

The website is currently structured into the following sections:

- **Home** (see Figure 2): The home page provides a clear and structured overview of the project, presenting its vision, mission, and blueprint. It also highlights recent news and events and displays the logos of all consortium partners.
- **About**: This section offers a comprehensive overview of the project, including the consortium structure, work package organization, the project blueprint, and the DIGITAfrica Community page.
- **News & Events**: This section keeps the target audience informed by sharing the latest news and updates on past and upcoming events. It also features a dedicated blog area where articles and relevant content are published.
- **Outcomes & Resources**: The Outcomes & Resources section provides structured access to all publicly available deliverables, organized by WPs, as well as other public materials, including the E-brochures, Posters and Press releases.
- **Contact Us**: This section provides a form through which users can contact the DIGITAfrica consortium with any questions or requests for further information.

Over the next period, the website will continue to serve as a central communication tool. It will provide project information and resources, as well as facilitating the dissemination of event updates and project outcomes.



Figure 2 - DIGITAfrica Website: Home page

2.3.1.1 Blog posts

A blog section was launched on the DIGITAfrica website in October 2025 (see Figure 3) with the aim of facilitating the dissemination of updates and content, as well as engaging a wider audience.

All current blog posts are available on the website under the section “News & Updates” (<https://www.digitafrica.eu/blog-2/>).

At this stage of the project, four blog posts have been published. The first post was a welcome article introducing the project and the purpose of the blog section. The following three articles focus respectively on WP6, WP5, and WP4, providing insights from partners on their progress and key achievements. Further articles from the remaining WPs will be published over the next period to provide a comprehensive overview of the project’s activities and outcomes.



Figure 3 - DIGITAfrica Blog section

2.3.1.2 DIGITAfrica Community

In February 2026, the DIGITAfrica Community page (see Figure 4) was launched to support the development of a collaborative network of interested stakeholders, contributing to a growing ecosystem driving digital transformation and innovation. It has also been used as a communication tool when engaging with potential stakeholders, facilitating interaction and the sharing of information. The page aims to promote awareness of the DIGITAfrica vision and to encourage participation in shaping the project’s activities and mission.



Figure 4 - DIGITAfrica Community page

2.3.2 Social Networks

As part of the communication strategy, DIGITAfrica has strategically prioritised LinkedIn and YouTube as primary social media channels for engaging target audiences and promoting project activities and outcomes.

2.3.2.1 LinkedIn

LinkedIn provides a key channel for engaging directly with a wide audience and sharing project updates, news and key achievements. Mandat International (MI) manages the project's [LinkedIn page](#), and consortium members are encouraged to share and interact with posts, as well as to invite their own connections to follow the project.

As of M18, the LinkedIn channel has achieved the following results over the 2025-2026 period, based on the 365-day analytics data available within LinkedIn:

- 453 followers, approaching the minimum KPI target of 500 and contributing to the project's visibility.
- 15+ posts published
- 496 reactions, 7 comments, 11 reposts
- 21,854 impressions (number of times content has been displayed on users' screens)

MI will continue to post regularly, ensuring updates and improvements while adhering to the following rules:

- **Mentioning partners, people, and projects using @** wherever possible to enhance content reach and encourage shares.
- **Use of hashtags:** The most relevant hashtags with high interaction will be actively selected to promote posts. Examples include #DIGITAfrica, #ResearchInfrastructure, and #DigitalScience.
- **Interactive content:** Posts will strategically use images, emojis, prompts, and shortened links to increase engagement.

2.3.2.2 YouTube

The official [YouTube channel](#) (see Figure 5) was launched on 21 July 2025, in accordance with the project's visual identity. In line with prior agreements, audiovisual materials have been developed in close collaboration with project partners. Four videos have been published on the channel and can be found within the SLICES-CONVERGE and SoBigData playlists. The first two videos feature the experiences of participants in the SLICES-CONVERGE Summer School, held at the University of Porto in Porto, Portugal, from 25 to 27 June 2025. The third and fourth videos feature stories from participants in the third edition of the SoBigData Summer School 2025, held in Baratti, Italy, from 22 to 28 June. These testimonials provide insights into the Summer School experience and are intended to increase the project's impact and reach a wider audience.

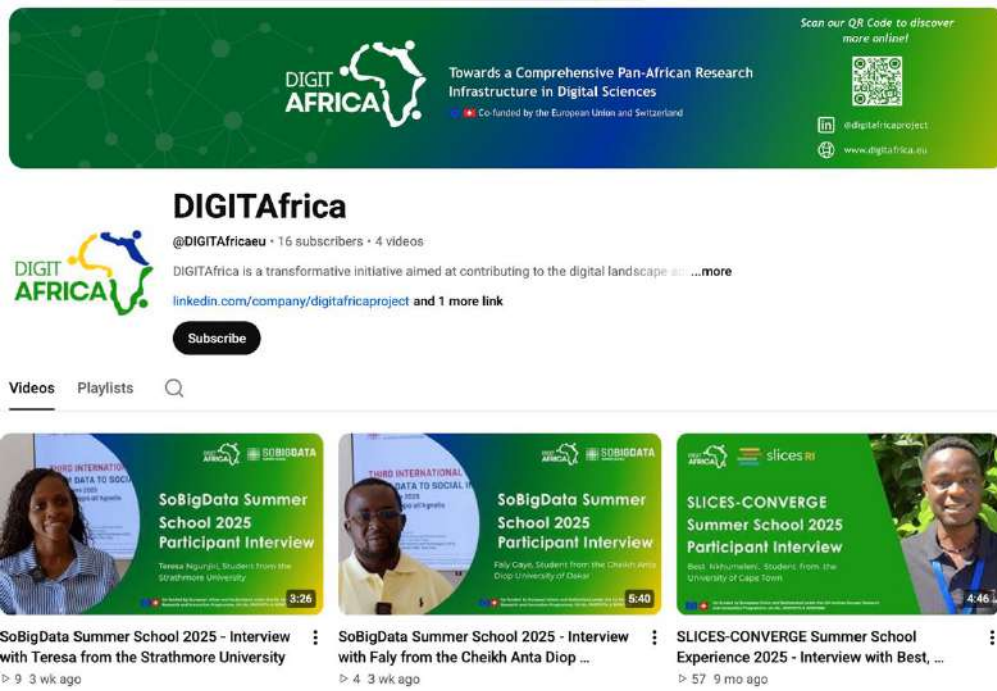


Figure 5 - DIGIT Africa Youtube Channel

2.3.3 Communication material

2.3.3.1 DIGIT Africa E-brochures

Three official E-brochures (see Figures 6-9) have been produced in support of the project's dissemination activities. These documents are [available](#) for consultation on the project website and the shared drive, to which all partners have access. Although they have been successfully published, efforts to increase reach and engagement are ongoing. In the next reporting period, the brochures will be actively promoted through LinkedIn and other communication channels to enhance visibility and achieve the KPI of 200 downloads.

Figure 6 - E-Brochure Version 1



Our Mission

- Establish the foundation for a pan-African RI in Digital Science.**
Co-developing a strategic framework with transformative impact on AU-EU research, innovation, and education.
- Strengthen partnership between African and European Research Institutions.**
Fostering dialogue with key stakeholders and building on existing AU-EU collaborations.
- Define a sustainable roadmap for RI development.**
Deliver a design study with governance and investment strategies to ensure lasting AU-EU cooperation in Research Infrastructures.

About US

DigitAfrica is a European project aiming to co-construct a comprehensive strategy to structure a pan-African Research Infrastructure (RI) in Digital Sciences. Focused on innovation, collaboration, and capacity building, it empowers African researchers and institutions to lead in advanced computing, AI, machine learning, and telecommunications.

By fostering partnerships between African and European stakeholders, DIGITAfrica bridges the digital divide, promotes open science, and drives sustainable technological progress. It brings together five African Union partners, seven EU partners, and one associated country partner.

Aligned with the African Union's STISA-2024 strategy, DIGITAfrica supports socio-economic development, digital skills, and joint research opportunities, paving the way for a digitally empowered Africa.

DIGIT AFRICA

www.digitafrika.eu

This project is co-funded by the European Union and Switzerland under the EU Horizon Europe research and innovation Programme. (GA 10118796)



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The DIGITAfrica project

DigitAfrica is a European project aiming to co-construct a comprehensive strategy to structure a pan-African Research Infrastructure (RI) in Digital Sciences.

Through a strategic collaboration between 13 partners from Africa and Europe, the project aims to lay the foundations for a sustainable digital transformation across the African continent.

DIGIT AFRICA

About us

This project is co-funded by the European Union and Switzerland under the EU Horizon Europe research and innovation Programme. (GA 10118796)

Figure 7 - E-Brochure Version 2



Figure 8 - E-Brochure Front, Version 3



Figure 9 - E-Brochure Back, Version 3

2.3.3.2 DIGITAfrica Posters

As part of the project’s communication activities, a total of four posters is planned. As of M18, three versions of the introductory poster have been produced (see Figures 10 and 11), representing a partial achievement of this milestone. The first two versions were developed at the beginning of the project, while the third was produced at mid-term, incorporating updated and more detailed information. The production of the remaining last poster is scheduled for the next reporting period, in order to ensure full achievement of the relevant KPIs. The materials can also be used as flyers for dissemination purposes.



Figure 10 - DIGIT Africa Poster Version 1 and 2



Figure 11 - DIGIT Africa Poster Version 3

2.3.3.3 DIGITAfrica Roll up

At the start of the project, a roll-up banner (see Figure 12) providing an overview of the project was developed with the objective of increasing its communication impact during external events, including conferences, workshops, and seminars. The following figure illustrates the visual.



Figure 12 - DIGITAfrica Roll up

2.3.3.4 DIGITAfrica High-level presentation materials for policymakers

A comprehensive overview and a high-level presentation have been produced in both French and English to support the project's external dissemination and engagement with policymakers. The overview presentation is designed to provide stakeholders with a concise summary of the project's key achievements and an overall project overview. Meanwhile, the high-level presentation is tailored for policymakers and focuses on the project's mission, rationale, objectives, key results, and next steps. Both sets of materials (see Figures 13 and 14) are available in the shared file and accessible to all partners, ensuring consistent and strategic communication across the consortium.

The production of these materials aligns with the KPI target of producing at least one set per year. To fully achieve the KPI and maintain continuous dissemination and engagement with stakeholders, an additional series of presentations will be produced in the next period.



Figure 13 - High Level Presentation in English



Figure 14 - High Level Presentation in French

2.3.3.5 DIGITAfrica One-Pager

A concise one-page project overview (see Figure 15) has been developed to support the dissemination of DIGITAfrica and facilitate engagement with external stakeholders. The one-pager is intended as an accessible entry point to the project, summarising its focus, rationale, and areas of activity in a compact format.

It is primarily used in external communication contexts such as events, meetings, and stakeholder interactions, where a brief and clear introduction to the project is required. The material supports consistent messaging across partners and helps ensure a common understanding of DIGITAfrica’s scope and objectives.

The following figure presents the one-pager.

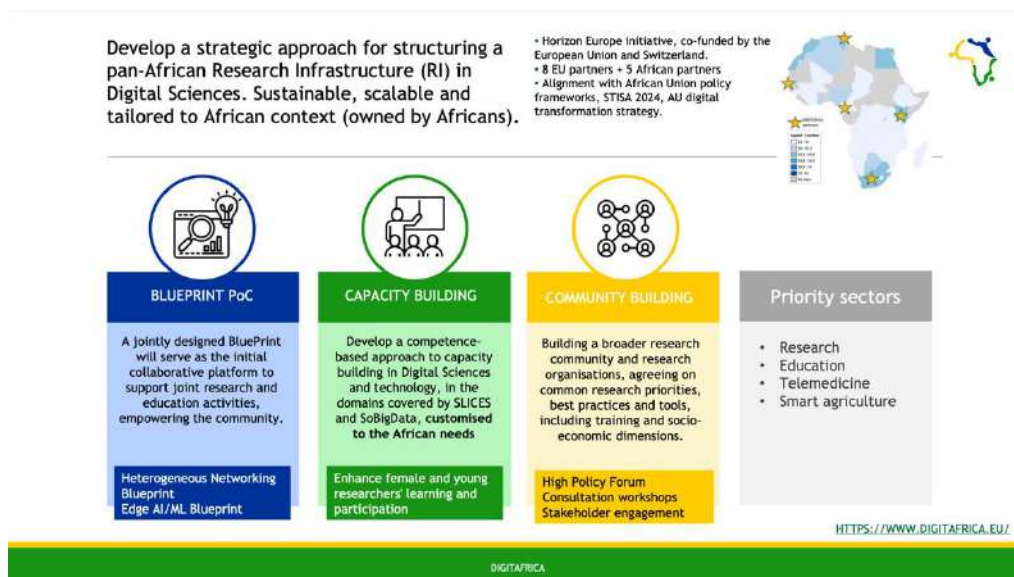


Figure 15 - DIGITAfrica One-Pager

3 Dissemination strategy

3.1 Scope and Key Performance Indicators of dissemination activities

As outlined in Deliverable 6.1, the DIGITAfrica dissemination strategy aims to maximise project impact by engaging a multidisciplinary community and sharing research outcomes through the following activities:

- Training and education
- Publication of scientific papers and articles
- Policy engagement
- Attendance to conferences and events

To monitor project progress and guide dissemination activities, a set of KPIs has been defined, as summarized in Table 3:

Measure and Target Group(s)	Indicator	Target	Current results (M18)
DIGITAfrica Winter School (TG: 1, 4, 9)	Number of participants	1 Winter School, 40 participants	Summer School on Digital Technologies successfully organised (44 participants) second Summer School currently in preparation
Scientific publications (TG: 1, 2, 4, 5)	No. of peer-reviewed papers/articles	3 in total	Two peer-reviewed papers have been submitted
DIGITAfrica policy briefs (TG: 2, 3, 6, 7)	No. of policy briefs issued	3 policy briefs and 1 white paper	1 Policy brief (D7.2) prepared, 1 White paper co-prepared (Policymakers and Scientific audience), 2nd Policy Brief (D7.3) is expected to be delivered at Month 36
Presentations and demos (TG: All)	No. of presentations and demos made and n° of keynotes at conferences	At least 3 pres. per year and 1 demo per year / 2 Keynotes at conf.	Five presentations have been completed. The keynote and demo have not yet been delivered and are in progress, to be

			reported in the next reporting period
External events (TG: All)	No. of events attended	30 external events	20 events attended

Table 2 - Selected indicators for dissemination activities

3.2 Reporting on dissemination activities

The following section provides a comprehensive report on the outcomes of the dissemination activities. It summarizes the key actions implemented during the initial period, including participation in conferences and events, and the production of dissemination materials.

3.3.1 Project events

DIGITAfrica Inaugural Workshop

On 23 April 2025, the thirteen DIGITAfrica partners convened for their inaugural in-person meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, hosted by the University of Cape Town (Figure 16). The event marked the official beginning of the project's scientific and dissemination activities, and it was followed by a two-day workshop.

Representatives from the European Commission and European Research Executive Agency (REA) provided insight into international collaboration and project management. In the context of the meeting, partners shared updates on their work, discussed challenges and opportunities, and defined short- and medium-term goals.

The meeting established the foundation for coordinated efforts on blueprints, capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and outreach strategies. Furthermore, the necessity of aligning efforts to address research infrastructure challenges across African partner countries and prospective future members was highlighted.

The inaugural meeting was followed by an international workshop (April 24, 2025) and a practical session on the University of Cape Town campus (April 25, 2025), which represented two days of collaborative dialogue, training, and technical demonstration.



Figure 16 - DIGITAfrica launches in Cape Town (24-25 April 2025)

DIGITAfrica Plenary Meeting

From 26 to 28 November 2025, the thirteen DIGITAfrica partners convened in Nice, France, for the project's second plenary meeting, hosted by INRIA (Figure 17). The meeting provided an opportunity to review progress, discuss key priorities, and agree on next steps for the implementation of the project. It placed particular emphasis on strengthening the DIGITAfrica community and advancing the development of its capacity-building components.



Figure 17 - DIGITAfrica Plenary Meeting in Nice (26-28 November 2025)

DIGITAfrica Summer School in IT

The first DIGITAfrica Summer School was held from 23 to 27 March 2026 at Strathmore University (STR) in Nairobi, Kenya, with the participation of 44 learners, including 23 female and 21 male participants (Figure 18). The training programme combined theoretical lectures with guided practical sessions and adopted a micro-credential-based approach focused on developing specific technological competencies.



Figure 18 - DIGIT Africa Summer School in Kenya (23-27 March, 2026)

DIGIT Africa Consultation Workshop

From 27 to 29 April 2026, the Université de la Manouba (UMA), in collaboration with ENSI, hosted the 2nd DIGIT Africa Consultation Workshop in Tunis (Figure 19). The event gathered policymakers, researchers, and project partners from Africa and Europe to discuss strategic priorities, exchange perspectives, and contribute to the co-design of a research infrastructure in digital sciences aligned with Africa's needs and ambitions.

The three-day programme opened with a closed session dedicated to project partners on 27 April, followed by a focused consultation workshop on 28 April and hands-on sessions on 29 April 2026, which were open to a broader audience. The workshop supported collaborative discussions on the project's vision and implementation pathways, strengthening stakeholder engagement and fostering cross-regional cooperation.



Figure 19 - DIGITAfrica Plenary Meeting in Tunis (27-29 April 2026)

3.3.2 Conferences, workshops, and international events

Conferences, symposiums, and related events are key instruments for the dissemination and communication of DIGITAfrica’s results, providing direct access to target audiences. These events provide valuable opportunities to present project developments and outcomes, as well as to engage stakeholders.

As outlined in D6.1, to ensure consistent monitoring of dissemination opportunities throughout the project, MI has developed a dedicated spreadsheet titled "Events". This document allows the consortium to identify relevant events, track partner participation, and record key information.

3.3.2.1 Past events

Since the beginning of the project, partners have actively participated in events to foster engagement with target audiences and ensure alignment with the KPIs. To date, DIGITAfrica attended 20 events. In addition, partners have contributed to the project’s visibility through presentations delivered at conferences and workshops.

In addition, we have been promoting the participation of African partners in international venues and events, in particular in order to also showcase and address African research and innovation challenges. This is the case for instance with the participation of two DIGITAfrica partners’ representatives (Prof Joyce Mwangama (UCT) and Prof Bamba Gueye (UCAD) to the highly visible and impactful media “The NetworkingChannel”: <https://networkingchannel.eu/>. Likewise, Joyce Mwangama is associated to the OpenRIT workshop serie related to “Open6G for All”: <https://openrit-6g.org/>.

The events in which DIGITAfrica took part are listed below:

- (1) From 28 to 30 May 2025, in Gweru, Zimbabwe, project partners Sorbonne University (SU) and the University of Cape Town (UCT) participated on behalf of DIGITAfrica in the 2nd Capacity Building Programme on Research Management. The programme covered a broad range of topics related to research management, with a particular focus on research, science, technology, innovation systems, and capacity building.
- (2) From 20 to 22 October 2025, in Dakar, Senegal, project partner Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) presented DIGITAfrica at the AT Annual Conference, African Engineering and Technology. The presentation showcased the project's ongoing initiatives supporting digital transformation and provided an overview of related research and innovation activities, including DIGITAfrica.
- (3) From 5 to 7 November 2025, project partners Sorbonne University (SU) and INRIA contributed to IEEE LatinCom 2025 through the organisation of a panel discussion and the delivery of a tutorial. Their participation provided an opportunity to disseminate DIGITAfrica's activities and results, inviting the LatinCom community to follow the DIGITAfrica model. They promote knowledge exchange with the international research community, and contribute to the project's dissemination objectives.
- (4) On 12 November 2025, project partner TU Berlin participated in the Africa Tech Festival 2025 (AfricaCom) held in Cape Town, South Africa. During the discussions, speakers highlighted the importance of developing digital skills in Africa to enable the effective adoption of 5G technologies, with specific reference to DIGITAfrica.
- (5) On 28 November 2025, project partners including Mandat International (MI), Sorbonne University (SU), and the University of Ngaoundéré (UN) participated in the NetIAS Debates: Computational Practices for Pluriversal AI, held online. During the session, the partners presented "Developing a Pan-African Research Infrastructure - DIGITAfrica", thereby contributing to the project's KPI on presentations and conferences.
- (6) From 30 November to 3 December 2025, DIGITAfrica partners University of Cape Town (UCT) and TU Berlin participated in SATNAC 2025, Africa's leading ICT conference bringing together researchers, industry experts, and policymakers in the field of telecommunications. During the event, the partners and researchers involved in the initiative were awarded the Best Paper Award for the publication entitled "Building a Low-Cost Cloud-Native 5G Network Slicing Experimental Testbed: Open-Source Solutions, Lessons Learned and Future Directions."
- (7) From 10 to 12 December 2025, project partner Strathmore University (STR) participated in the IEEE AFRICON 2025 Conference by presenting a scientific paper. As one of the premier IEEE conferences in the African region, the event provided an opportunity to disseminate DIGITAfrica's research activities and engage with the scientific community.
- (8) On 14 December 2025, project partner University of Amsterdam (UvA) organised, on behalf of DIGITAfrica, a half-day workshop for PhD and MSc students in Algeria. The workshop promoted knowledge sharing and capacity building by introducing participants to the

project's objectives and research activities, contributing to DIGITAfrica's outreach and capacity-building objectives.

- (9) From 15 to 17 December 2025, project partner University of Amsterdam (UvA) participated as an exhibitor at the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Embedded Systems and Renewable Energy. During the event, the partner presented DIGITAfrica's objectives and research activities, engaged with students and university staff, and distributed communication materials, including flyers and posters.
- (10) On 2 February 2026, project partner Strathmore University (STR) participated in the National Hybrid Workshop on Horizon Europe - Africa Initiative in Kenya. The workshop was designed to equip Kenyan researchers and innovators with practical knowledge of EU funding opportunities, with a particular focus on Horizon Europe.
- (11) From 2 to 4 February 2026, project partner University of Ngaoundéré (UN) participated in the U.S. Africa Frontiers of Science, Engineering, and Medicine conference held in Dakar, Senegal. During the conference, DIGITAfrica booklets were distributed to engage with researchers and stakeholders, increasing awareness and visibility of the project.
- (12) On 16 March 2026, project partner University of Cape Town (UCT) participated in the Horizon Europe "Africa Initiative IV" Webinar - Focus on South Africa. The webinar brought together researchers and stakeholders to discuss opportunities for collaboration under Horizon Europe. DIGITAfrica's participation increased the project's visibility.
- (13) On 8 April 2026, DIGITAfrica co-organised the workshop "Sovereign AI and Epistemic Justice: Reclaiming Sustainable Computation" at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS), in collaboration with Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies (AIAS), Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study (HIAS), ACTS AI Institute, and the University of Ngaoundéré (UN) (EGCIM-CREP). During the workshop, members of DIGITAfrica presented the first results of the project during a panel discussion.
- (14) On 8 April 2026, project partner University of Ngaoundéré (UN) participated in the NETIAS Debates Series held in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The event provided an opportunity to present and discuss topics related to research and innovation while promoting DIGITAfrica's objectives and activities.
- (15) From 20 to 24 April 2026, project partner Mandat International (MI) participated in the Privacy Symposium 2026 in Venice, Italy. During the event, the partner hosted a dedicated exhibition booth showcasing Horizon Europe projects, including DIGITAfrica, to engage participants and raise awareness of the project's objectives.
- (16) From 5 to 8 May 2026, project partner University of Ngaoundéré (UN) participated in RightsCon 2026 in Zambia, a global conference on human rights, digital governance, digital policy, and responsible AI. The partner took part in a roundtable discussion, presenting DIGITAfrica.

- (17) From 12 to 14 May 2026, University of Ngaoundéré (UN) participated in IndabaX Cameroon, one of the most dynamic AI community events bringing together researchers, students, and innovators. During the event, the DIGITAfrica Blueprint was presented, highlighting the project's approach and mission and contributing to the project's annual target for presentations.
- (18) From 19 to 23 May 2026, the TAIMA Conference (Data Processing and Analysis: Methods and Applications) took place in Tunisia. On 19 May, project partner University of La Manouba (UMA) presented “Vers une Infrastructure Numérique Durable pour la Recherche Afrique-Europe (DIGITAfrica)”, contributing to the project's KPI on presentations and conferences.
- (19) On 1 June 2026, DIGITAfrica partners Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC) and University of Ngaoundéré (UN) participated in the workshop “Science Diplomacy meets Pluriversality in Language Technology: Recognizing and fostering alternate pathways to language technology / AI*”, organised by the Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies in Denmark. Two project members presented “DIGITAfrica AI Blueprint and Stakeholders Engagement”, contributing to the project's KPI on presentations and conferences.
- (20) On 2 June 2026, in Málaga, Spain, project partner INRIA delivered a presentation during the workshop “Shaping the Future of 6G: International Cooperation for AI-Native RAN”. The presentation highlighted how DIGITAfrica is designing a pan-African research infrastructure to enable cutting-edge 6G research in Africa and contributed to the achievement of the project's annual target for presentations and conferences.

3.3.2.2 *Upcoming conferences and events*

Until the end of the project, DIGITAfrica partners will continue to participate in relevant conferences, workshops, and community events, providing further opportunities to disseminate project results, strengthen stakeholder engagement, foster new collaborations, and ensure impact beyond the project lifetime. Some of the key events currently planned for project dissemination, networking and stakeholder engagement are listed below.

- (1) DIGITAfrica is contributing to a joint submission for the AI Dialogue Partnerships Hub, organised by the United Nations, which will take place on 6-7 July 2026 in Geneva. The submission is being prepared in collaboration with the Institute of Barcelona for International Studies (IBEI), within the framework of the NEAR-ER project, and the AFRIPAL project.
- (2) DIGITAfrica participation is planned at the Deep Learning Indaba 2026 in Nigeria (August 2026), the continent's flagship Artificial Intelligence conference. This engagement will provide an opportunity to present project progress and strengthen interactions with the broader African AI community. Furthermore, University of Ngaoundéré (UN) has developed a dedicated [website](#) to support DIGITAfrica's participation, serving as a dissemination and communication platform.
- (3) A paper led by project partners has been submitted to ACM COMPASS 2026 (July 2026), an interdisciplinary conference exploring the intersection of computing, technology, inclusion, equity, and sustainable development in under-represented communities. Participation

would contribute to the dissemination of project outcomes and engagement with an international research audience.

- (4) DIGITAfrica partners are planning to participate in ACM GoodIT 2026 (September 2026), a leading international forum dedicated to the use of digital technologies and data for social good and sustainable development. The conference will offer an opportunity to showcase project activities and exchange experiences with researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.
- (5) DIGITAfrica partners intend to contribute to the AfriPal Conference 2027 (July 2027), further strengthening engagement with African academic, research, and policy communities. Participation will support networking, knowledge exchange, and the long-term sustainability of project outcomes and collaborations.

This will support the achievement of the KPI target of 30 events. All event details, including dates, locations, and partner contributions, will be systematically documented in the “Events” spreadsheet.

3.3.3 Dissemination material

3.3.3.1 Publications

The project KPIs target a total of 3 scientific publications. At this stage, two peer-reviewed papers have been submitted. The first paper, titled “Designing a Pan-African Research Infrastructure for Digital Sciences: DIGITAfrica Vision, Blueprint Methodology, and Roadmap”, has been submitted to EPJ Research Infrastructures on 01 June 2026; and the second paper, titled “FedFarm: Privacy-Preserving Federated Learning for Cassava Disease Diagnosis on Smallholder Farmers' Smartphones”, has been submitted to the ACM GoodIT Conference 2026. In line with the project dissemination strategy, partners are encouraged to promote open access whenever possible, in order to maximise visibility and support knowledge sharing.

3.3.3.2 White paper and policy brief

At mid-term of DIGITAfrica, two versions of the White Paper have been co-developed with partners: one targeting the High-Level Policy Forum and one aimed at the DIGITAfrica community. These documents have contributed to the achievement of the KPI target of one White Paper and have been used as key dissemination and engagement tools when contacting potential stakeholders, alongside the project e-brochure and the link to the DIGITAfrica Community page on the project website. The White Papers support the communication strategy by providing structured information on the project’s vision, objectives, and expected impact, while facilitating targeted outreach to different stakeholder groups.

The mid-term Policy Brief (D7.2) has been led and developed by SU within WP7 at Month 18, with contributions from project partners, as part of the deliverables foreseen under this work package and as agreed in the Grant Agreement. The document provides policymakers with targeted information on DIGITAfrica results, activities, and strategic recommendations emerging from the first phase of the project. It aims to support policy developments in the field of digital research infrastructures and digital sciences, while fostering knowledge exchange and complementarity among related initiatives. A second and final Policy Brief (D7.3) is expected to be delivered at Month 36, in accordance with the GA and KPIs.

4 Exploitation strategy

The DIGITAfrica exploitation strategy aims to ensure the long-term sustainability and uptake of the project’s results beyond its duration. As reported in D6.1, the exploitation strategy is closely integrated with dissemination and communication activities, with a particular focus on stakeholder engagement and capacity building across African and European research and innovation communities, particularly through Task 6.3 “Synergies and Dialogue with the Civil Society and Industry”.

This task aims to foster collaboration between higher education institutions, research organisations, civil society, and industry stakeholders. Through introductory meetings, conferences, workshops, training activities, and dedicated communication actions, the task contributes to increasing awareness of DIGITAfrica activities and strengthening the exploitation potential of the project’s enablers and solutions.

4.1 Stakeholder engagement activities

Stakeholder engagement represents a core pillar of the DIGITAfrica exploitation strategy and plays a key role in ensuring the sustainability and long-term impact of the project.

As outlined in the Communication Strategy, an initial stakeholder mapping process was established to identify relevant actors across participating countries and to structure subsequent engagement activities. This exercise was primarily intended for communication and coordination purposes, providing a high-level overview of the audience and enabling the definition of initial engagement pathways.

In a second phase, this initial mapping was further refined and operationalised through the development of a shared stakeholder list hosted on a common drive and accessible to all consortium partners. This collaborative resource was jointly developed by the project partners and enriched with more detailed information, including country, organisation, contact details, role or occupation, communication status, responsible consortium contact person, and an estimation of influence or relevance within the ecosystem. This step enabled a more operational use of the stakeholder information and supported coordinated engagement activities across the consortium.

The stakeholder engagement approach was operationalised, in particular, through bilateral meetings. Stakeholders were prioritised according to their influence, relevance to DIGITAfrica outcomes, and alignment with the project’s objectives and vision.

The bilateral meetings are designed to deepen understanding of stakeholders’ institutional contexts, priorities, and ongoing initiatives, while identifying potential synergies with DIGITAfrica and concrete areas for collaboration. They facilitate the progressive transition towards active engagement, supporting the definition of pathways for long-term collaboration and stakeholder involvement in project activities.

Collaboration opportunities are structured around five complementary pillars:

- Blueprint testing, validation, and deployment;
- Capacity building;
- Community building;
- Policy and regulatory engagement;
- Dissemination, exploitation, and sustainability.

To date, stakeholder engagement activities have resulted in the following outreach and interaction figures:

	Cameroon	Kenya	Tunisia	Senegal	South Africa	Other	Total
Total Stakeholders	7	11	23	11	24	37	113
Contacted (1st round)	7	4	17	10	24	32	94
Reply interested	4	4	5	11	8	23	55
Meet	0	0	9	8	4	9	30

Table 3 - Stakeholder Engagement

* In Tunisia, an additional four stakeholders were engaged through in-person meetings during the DIGITAfrica workshop.

Following the initial contact or meeting with stakeholders, the objective is to progressively translate stakeholder interest into concrete activities and collaborations, including participation in workshops and technical meetings, bilateral follow-up discussions, technical validation activities, and pilot preparation and deployment discussions. The objective is not the immediate formalisation of collaborations, but rather the gradual development of stronger engagement where relevant.

To support these engagement activities, a set of dissemination and information materials was shared with stakeholders, including the DIGITAfrica community website page, the e-brochure, white papers (where relevant), information on the DIGITAfrica Consultation Workshop in Tunis, details of the High-Level Policy Forum, and information on the project's participation in international events such as RightsCon and ITU-related activities.

These interactions have contributed to aligning stakeholder priorities, strengthening collaboration opportunities, and consolidating a growing DIGITAfrica stakeholder community. Building on these initial engagements, the project will continue to reinforce stakeholder engagement activities in order to facilitate exploitation and further collaboration opportunities.

Further details on stakeholder engagement process is described in Deliverable D5.1 Preliminary requirements for the design study, which provides a comprehensive overview of the methodology, engagement activities, and coordination mechanisms implemented across the consortium.

4.2 Capacity-building

Capacity building activities are closely linked to WP4 and are central to supporting skills development, knowledge exchange, and the long-term sustainability of project outcomes. These activities include participation in international training initiatives, the organisation of schools and workshops, and the development of frameworks for advanced qualifications and micro-credentials.

In particular, student mobility and training opportunities have been supported through collaboration with external academic initiatives, including the participation of two students from STR and UCAD in the SoBigData Summer School in 2025, and two students from UCT in the SLICES Academy Summer School in 2025. These experiences have contributed to strengthening international exposure and reinforcing the project's training dimension.

As also mentioned in the Dissemination Strategy chapter, a Winter School was successfully organised in Kenya in March 2026, bringing together students, researchers, and practitioners in hands-on sessions focused on digital skills and emerging technologies. It is meant as a proof-of-concept of the training approach and modules developed within DIGITAfrica and properly articulated with Blueprints. This activity further supported the transfer of knowledge and the development of practical competencies aligned with DIGITAfrica, and will be replicated.

As such, an additional workshop is currently under preparation and is scheduled to take place in Senegal in October 2026, further contributing to the consolidation of training and capacity building activities within the project.

In addition, work is ongoing on the development of a framework for qualifications and micro-credentials, aimed at supporting the recognition, transferability, and sustainability of training outcomes beyond the project lifetime.

4.3 Dissemination outputs

Exploitation activities also include the production and dissemination of key outputs, such as white papers and policy briefs. These contribute to increasing the visibility and impact of DIGITAfrica at both scientific and policy levels, supporting wider awareness and uptake of project results. Project outcomes are disseminated through multiple channels, including the DIGITAfrica website, ensuring open access and long-term visibility within the research and innovation community.

4.4 Next steps

In the next phase of the project, exploitation activities will focus on:

- further strengthening stakeholder engagement and collaboration;
- continuing training and capacity-building actions;
- improving the visibility and accessibility of project results and the BluePrint;
- exploring long-term sustainability and follow-up initiatives.

Overall, the activities implemented so far have contributed to establishing a solid stakeholder network and laying the groundwork for the future sustainability and uptake of DIGITAfrica results.

5 Conclusion

Prepared at Month 18 of the project, this document (D6.3) provides a report on the dissemination and communication activities and achievements carried out during the first year of DIGITAfrica. By emphasizing the importance of integrating these activities across all WPs, the document supports the project's objectives and contributes to its long-term impact.

The report presents an overview of the communication strategy, including the tools and channels used. Using predefined KPIs, it assesses the effectiveness of these elements one year after implementation and highlights their contribution to increasing visibility and fostering stakeholder engagement.

Secondly, the document evaluates the dissemination strategy and its achievements by presenting DIGITAfrica partners' participation in events, workshops, and conferences, and demonstrating how these activities are aligned with the predefined KPIs.

Over the next period, efforts will continue to strengthen the visibility and outreach of DIGITAfrica. This will ensure that dissemination and communication activities remain aligned with project objectives, maximising stakeholder engagement thereby contributing to a sustainable impact.